



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

FEB 9 2006



MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDANT OF THE US COAST GUARD
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for Medical Deferral Pending Deployment to Theaters of Operation

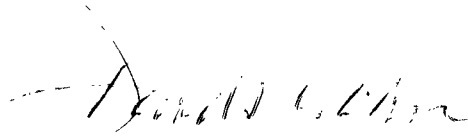
Section 732c (Uniform Policy on Medical Deferral Pending Deployment to Theaters of Operation) of the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Act (attached) requests, "The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe, for uniform applicability throughout the Armed Forces, a policy on deferral of medical treatment of members pending deployment."

It is the Department of Defense's policy that the Military Departments, informed by guidance from the theater Combatant Commander, define medical deployment standards for their members deploying to a theater of operations. If a Service member has a medical or dental condition that causes failure to meet deployment standards, and an episode or short period of treatment will cause that member to meet Service deployment standards, the Service may, at its option, treat that member and then deploy him or her to theater after an adequate recovery period.

If the Service wishes to deploy a Service member who does not meet its deployment standards, to have an episode or short period of care in the theater of operations that will render the member otherwise fit for duty in that theater, that Service will obtain a waiver from the Combatant Command Surgeon. The Combatant Command Surgeon, in coordination with the Senior in-theater Medical Authority for the Service member's proposed location, will take into account, among other factors, the area of the planned deployment, the availability and optempo of the required medical or dental services in that area, and the likelihood of complications of treatment while in theater further degrading the functional status of the Service member and the supporting medical or dental assets, potentially causing evacuation of the Service member or overloading the supporting medical or dental assets. Services will continue to employ measures to ensure Service members are medically and psychologically fit for world-wide deployability.



This policy is effective immediately, and supersedes the memo dated December 6, 2005 subject as above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. C. Chu". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

David S. C. Chu

Attachment:
As stated

Public Law 108-375 (Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Act)
Section 732 - Medical Readiness of Reserves

(c) Uniform Policy on Medical Deferral Pending Deployment to Theaters of Operation.

- (1) REQUIREMENT FOR POLICY - The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe, for uniform applicability throughout the Armed Forces, a policy on deferral of medical treatment of members pending deployment.
- (2) CONTENT - The policy prescribed under paragraph (1) may specify the following matters:
 - (A) The circumstances under which treatment for medical conditions may be deferred to be provided within a theater of operations in order to prevent delay or other disruption of a deployment to that theater.
 - (B) The circumstances under which medical conditions are to be treated before deployment to that theater.